

# DDDC Reducing Pallet Cost

Replacing and repairing wooden pallets can be a costly and time-consuming process. The cost to replenish can range from \$10-15 per pallet. Different approaches have been employed to ensure pallets utilized in deliveries can be recovered, including the branding or spray painting of pallets. However, at Naval Station San Diego, these approaches did not work because pier sentries are authorized to dispose of excess pallets in order to eliminate fire hazards while other activities may collect wooden pallets for their own needs.

Defense Distribution Depot San Diego, CA (DDDC) implemented a dual strategy to reduce pallet repair and replacement costs. A pallet recovery program is now in place whereby the Naval Base San Diego Public Works Recycling Center recovers wooden pallets from the piers and returns them to DDDC at a recovery cost of \$2 per pallet.

DDDC is also utilizing collapsible pallet containers. These are durable in design, easily and safely collapsed for space considerations, and afford environmental advantages over disposable wooden pallets. Customized with DDDC's needs in mind, they are configured for both forklift and straddle truck operations. Since this collapsible pallet container has four sides, there is also a reduced need to wrap or tie-down material to the base.

Customers are satisfied with the added protection afforded the material by a four sided plastic pallet container, as well as the additional protection provided against the weather.

Additionally, fire hazard and disposal issues on the pier are significantly reduced by replacing traditional wooden pallets with collapsible pallet containers.

## 28,000 Tons of Old Warehouse Recycled

By Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs

The two World War II era warehouses demolished to make room for a new 488,000 square foot warehouse at Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA (DDJC), may be gone, but their usefulness continues. Approximately 28,000 tons of concrete that made up the floor and walls of the old warehouses, were crushed into little pieces and used to form the base for the new building. Additionally, asphalt from the roads and parking lots around the demolished warehouses was recycled to form the base.

A portable crushing plant was set up to pulverize the concrete and asphalt and screen it to provide select sizes.



*A portable crushing plant converted two WWII warehouses into this mountain of pulverized concrete, which was used to form the base of the new warehouse under construction*

While this type of recycling only saves a few construction dollars, according to the construction site manager, the major benefit is to the environment by not adding to landfills.

## DDSP Doubles Forklift Hours with Battery Exchange Program

By Larry Metcalf, DDSP Equipment & Management Supervisor

With the increasing workload needed to support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the establishment of additional shifts, and the hiring of large numbers of new employees, DDSP quickly ran into challenges with providing enough Material Handling Equipment (MHE)—namely forklifts—to support distribution operations.

To help bridge the gap until additional MHE arrives, DDSP developed a battery exchange program that enables MHE to be used on an around-the-clock basis. To begin, DDSP purchased 30 exchange batteries and two battery exchange beams and

installed 22 additional chargers. Volunteers were then recruited for collateral duty as battery changers. These volunteers were trained in recharging and changing batteries, and were given beepers to enable them to respond quickly to the battery charging area.

This battery exchange program will effectively double the available forklift operating hours of 30 forklifts in DDSP's Eastern Distribution Center. A further expanded battery exchange program is also in development.